GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3458
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2002
WATERSHED COMPONENT OF EAS
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the watershed component of the Employment Assurance Scheme has been merged with Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP);

(b) whether the allocation for the watershed development programme has substantially been on decline;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken for providing adequate importance to watershed development programmes?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL)

(a) to (d) As a part of an exercise aimed at rationalising the structure of various schemes, Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) was retained mainly as a wage employment scheme and sanctioning of new watershed development projects under the scheme was discontinued w.e.f. 1.4.99. However, funds have been provided by the Department of Land Resources for completing the watershed projects taken up under EAS prior to1.4.99.Consequently the outlay for various Watershed Development Programmes namely Integrated Wastelands Development Programme(IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Developmen Programme (DDP) of the Deptt. was increased from Rs.262.00 crores in 1999-2000 to Rs.805.00 crores in 2000-01.The outlay for these Programmes was further increased to Rs.885 crores during 2002-03. The coverage of the Programmes has substantially been increased during 1999-2000 to 2001-02. Whereas new projects covering 52.62 lac hectares were sanctioned under the three progra! mmes during four years from 1995-96 to 1998-99, new projects covering 87.11 lac hectares were sanctioned during three years from 1999-2000 to 2001-02.